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## GOP resolution intends to re-assert constitutional rights, not end tribal governments

By Senator Don Benton  
Rep. - Vancouver

Let me be crystal clear: The Washington State Republican Party has no intention, now or in the future to seek the end of tribal sovereignty. Period!

A resolution concerning tribal government which passed in the final hours of the state GOP convention last month in Spokane has been so misrepresented by the news media, it has nearly taken on a life of its own. These reports have completely misrepresented the views and the principles of the Washington State Republican Party, and have unfairly attempted to paint our party as "racist and anti-Indian." Let me assure all Washingtonians — NOTHING could be farther from the truth.

What is the truth?

John Fleming, a Skagit County delegate to the state party convention, submitted a resolution calling for the "termination of all such non-Republican forms of government on Indian reservations." In this particular

See **TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY** page 2

## Menominee Casino marks 13<sup>th</sup> year of operation

By Staff Reporters  
Menominee Nation News

The Menominee Nation Casino celebrated their 13<sup>th</sup> year of operation, September 17-23, 2000 with a variety of special events.

A variety of spectacular festivities that took place throughout the week including a car giveaway, sensational performances by National Acts; as well as the showcasing of Jeff Gordon's Pepsi Busch car and the Menominee-sponsored race car and driver, Tom Naeyaert.

Since opening in 1987, Wisconsin's first casino has attracted many fans with their spectacular line up of nationally recognized music

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MNN/Y. Matson

**AND THE WINNER IS . . .** This years lucky winner of a brand new car during the Menominee Casino 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was Mr. David Wynos of Keshena. Above, David sits in the 2000 Monte Carlo LS as his wife, Devan looks on. They sold the car back to Buss Motors of Shawano and used the cash towards a down payment on a new home.

## Defendants convicted in Menominee logging cases

Special to  
Menominee Nation News

Thomas P. Schneider, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, announced the final resolution of two significant

federal criminal cases originating on the Menominee Indian Reservation and concerning the Menominee Tribal Enterprise (MTE).

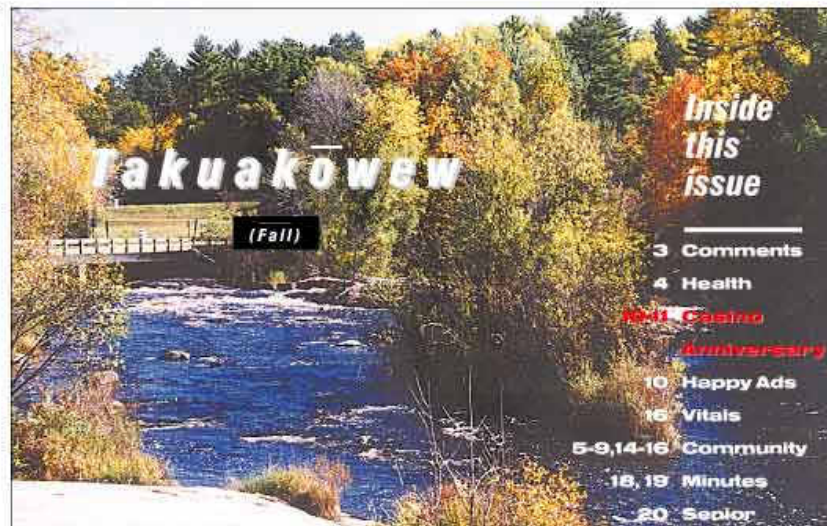
On September 27, 2000, William E. Cox, Jr. and Donald S. Tourtellot were found guilty by the Honorable

Aaron E. Goodstein, United States Magistrate Judge, of assault. The assault stemmed from a verbal confrontation with a non-Indian

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## TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY:

resolution, the intent of the word "Republican," as understood by the platform committee (but misunderstood by the tribes and the news media), refers to having the quality of a Republic, which is defined as "a government in which supreme power resides in a body of citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by elected officers and representatives responsible to them and governing according to law." It's the kind of government we have here in the United States.

As a resident of a tribal reservation, Mr. Fleming finds, however, that it is not the kind of government that is recognized on Indian reservations. He finds himself being treated differently than tribal members, effectively being discriminated against. He is denied certain unalienable rights (as in, among others, certain voting rights) while being required to maintain certain responsibilities, such as paying taxes.

"Taxation without representation" is a phrase that comes to mind. Thus, he has attempted to highlight this disparity and change this situation through one of the few avenues available to him, given his inability to vote or hold office on the reservation. The tribe, backed by other Native American groups, has told us in effect, "that's tough." We are told those are the rules and if Mr. Fleming doesn't like it, he can move. Discrimination is a terrible thing. It is terrible when practiced toward a member of a minority, but it is no less terrible when practiced by anyone else.

What would the response be, for example, if Congress passed a parallel law denying Native Americans living outside a reservation the right to vote? Would it be okay if we told Native Americans what Mr. Fleming has been told "That's tough. If you don't like it, move back to your reservations?" The outcry would no doubt reverberate throughout the United States as citizens rightfully and justifiably sought to overturn such an injustice.

Our founding fathers wrote, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights." Why then are they not self-evident on tribal reservations?

This was the intent of the platform committee when it presented this resolution - to guarantee the constitutional rights of ALL citizens of the United States are respected, protected and preserved. In retrospect, it's easy to see how this resolution could be misunderstood. It certainly could have been better written to clarify our intention. But the resolution was put through on the last day of the convention with 28 other resolutions in front of a very tired platform committee that had labored long hours on many other very difficult issues.

The resolution was approved with little discussion after one of the platform committee members, a Native American himself, explained the intent and recommended its passage. Furthermore, resolutions are statements of concern over issues that have, in many cases, directly impacted

individuals, as in the case of Mr. Fleming. Resolutions do not carry the same weight or influence as a "plank." This resolution was NOT a plank in the Washington State Republican Party platform.

One of my first actions as the new GOP state party chairman, was to implement a minority outreach program. For too long, our views as a Republican party have been unfairly misrepresented to minorities. We recently completed one of the best, and most positive Republican conventions in state history. Yet some leftist reporters chose to latch on to one resolution and misrepresent its intent in an effort to drum up more stories and stir up an outcry among the tribes against the Republican party.

For those who choose to refer to the actual resolution, the truth becomes obvious. Nothing in the resolution calls for the abolition of reservations. Nothing calls for the end of tribal sovereignty, and nothing calls for an end of tribal government. This resolution only intends to reassert the constitutionally-guaranteed rights of all United States citizens.

The Washington State Republican Party has worked well in the past with the tribes and has every intention of continuing to do so in the future. Reasonable people should be allowed to disagree. But in the end, we seek to work together for the betterment of all.

EDITOR'S NOTE: An article entitled, 'DNC Chair criticizes Republicans for anti-Native American rhetoric', was published on the front page of the July 22nd issue of Menominee Nation News. This a response from Sen. Don Benton, R-Vancouver, chairman of the Washington State Republican Party.

## ANNIVERSARY:

performers and local performers on a regular basis. This year's anniversary event was no different. All three national acts performed in the newly expanded showroom lounge. Throughout the week, however, Johnny Green and the Green Men played in the casino lounge.

Kicking off the entertainment segment for the week was Ricky Van Shelton on September 19th. The entertainer captivated the audience from the moment he took center stage. The Country music artist performed familiar songs such as; Cried my Last Tear For You, I Met Somebody Right, Crime Of Passion, Simple Man, From A Jack To A King, Statue Of A Fool, Rocky Top, and Long Tall Texan to name a few. The entertainer put on a unique performance, sharing center stage with members of his band who showcased their talents as well.

At one point when the performer took off his hat, a fan shouted for him to tip his hat again, the entertainer replied, (It's) "just a head up there. See, that's what happens when you give your wife a razor for Christmas. This year, she wants a pistol for Christmas. I said 'Huh-uh.' "



Some patrons arrived as early as 10:30 Tuesday morning to see the performer and began to line up in the afternoon for the 8 p.m. performance. According to Assistant General Manager, Laurie Reiter, 350 seats were set up in the showroom lounge. Another 100 were allowed in to the showroom with standing room only. Matchplay certificates were given to the 200-250 customers who were unable to get in to see the entertainer.

Wednesday's performance was the radiantly fabulous Peaches & Herb, whose lively show had audience members dancing, singing and laughing throughout their show. Songs performed by the pop and R&B duet were; Let's Fall In Love, We're In This Thing Together, Love Is Strange, I Pledge My Love, Shake Your Groove Thing, Reunited and For You Love.

The duo, also known as the sweethearts of soul, also sang the songs, I will survive, I'll Be There, Oh Girl, Sexual Healing, Just My Imagination and Let's Get It On; from other well known 60's recording artists. Audience members Kathy Madosh and Luke West enjoyed a chance at the mic, as they both sang a line or two of Reunited. It was an enjoyable performance for all in attendance. The group sure knew how to please the crowd.

Thursday night a Vendor Appreciation party was held for the vendors and media who do business with the Casino throughout the year. This year's theme was 'Building for the Future'. with guests donning construction hats and enjoying the evening in a tent decorated with a construction site setting. "It's our way of making fun of all the construction that's been going on in the area," said Al Stachura, Marketing Director for the Menominee Casino-Bingo-Hotel.

Stachura, and James 'Pokey' Reiter, in their working man gear, came up on stage before Thursday nights performance and advised everyone that they have completed phase one in their casino plans. The new addition to the casino expands out into the old parking lot and is filled with slot machines and a cashier booth. A huge entertainment facility and new stage is in the works. Also planned, is a 24 hour cafe. Remodeling in the showroom took about 3 weeks.

On Thursday, Pure Prairie League got the chance to perform their hits from the 70's, 80's and early 90's. The six member group got the night started off with songs from their first album, which was in 1971. In their 29 years of performing, the group has experienced many different changes, mainly in the band itself, with members coming and going. In 1979, the group was honored to have Vince Gill join the band as a guitarist, before he became a huge country star on his own in the 90's.

Songs performed by the country rock group were: If You Could Say What I'm Thinkin', I'll Fix Your Flat Tire Girl, Let Me Love You Tonight, Getting' Over You Getting' Over Me, If I Have To Go I'd Rather Stay, There's Only One Way Out, Two Lane Highway Going My Way, Layin' Next To Her Tonight, Amie and Pickin'. The group is currently working on a new album (title unknown at this time) which is due to be released close to Christmas.

Another event which has been held in conjunction with the anniversary celebration since 1994, is honoring of the elders in the community with a breakfast. Those 55 and older were invited to have breakfast Wednesday morning.

The elders were served a scrumptious meal of scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, oatmeal (with bacon grease - mmmm!), muffins, coffee and orange juice by the casino managers and administration. Respected elder, Mr. Earl Wescott, Sr. provided the blessing as he expressed hope that the 7th generation 'has everything that we have now' as he made reference to growing up during the Depression Era. The odds were favorable for someone from the reservation to win a brand new 2000 Monte Carlo LS. with 8 of 21 listed as qualifiers.

With key #3 in hand David Wynos was the 11th person to try and start the car. The Keshena resident held gave a jubilant shout when he realized his was the winning key. The remaining contestants had a chance to win one of 3 trips. They included: Dory Latender of Keshena - Las Vegas trip., Marlene DeGroot of Green Bay - Fly away trip, and Bev Reinward of Plover - Drive away trip. The remaining qualifiers each received \$100.

The Casino has grown considerably through the year's with a current employment record of 530 personnel in various positions.

#### DEFENDENTS:

logger, on April 17, 1999 in an area of the Menominee forest just west of Keshena, Wisconsin. During the confrontation, Cox and Tourtillot threatened to 'blow up' the other logger's equipment if he submitted a logging bid at the same time as Menominee loggers in the scheduled Menominee Tribal Enterprise (MTE) Spring Bid on April 21, 1999.

Cox and Tourtillot also contacted other non-Indian loggers and implied that equipment would be damaged if the non-Indian loggers submitted bids at the same time as Menominee loggers on April 21, 1999. The threats made by Cox and Tourtillot ultimately led MTE to suspend the Spring Bid and shut down operations in the Menominee forest for approximately 22 days.

Cox and Tourtillot were each sentenced to one year of probation and ordered to pay \$1,000 restitution to MTE. The investigation was a joint effort by the United States Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Menominee Tribal Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant US Attorney Dan Sanders.

In another matter involving MTE, five (5) defendants pled guilty to a federal charge of unlawfully cutting trees on the Menominee Indian Reservation. On September 14, 2000, Karl Peters, the last defendant in this case, pled guilty before the Honorable Charles N. Clevert, U. S. District Judge. The charge is a misdemeanor, and he faces a maximum potential sentence of one year. Sentencing

is set for November 30, 2000. Peters' father, Alex Peters, Mitchell Maskewit, Carl Maskewit and John Maskewit, all pled guilty to the same charge earlier this year.

The charges stem from the unauthorized cutting of approximately 46 standing white pine trees in the Elm Lake area of the Menominee Indian Reservation during February and March of 1999. Alex Peters, a contractor with MTE, directed his crew members, Karl Peters, Mitchell Maskewit, Carl Maskewit and John Maskewit to cut unmarked, standing white pine trees while working on a salvage contract in the Elm Lake area. The timber trespass was discovered when an MTE forester inadvertently noticed freshly cut, unmarked white pine stumps along Dickey Road. MTE foresters eventually checked the Peters salvage site just north of Elm Lake, the only MTE authorized ongoing operation in the area at the time, and discovered dozens of other unmarked, freshly cut white pine stumps.

As a condition of Alex Peters' sentencing, he was ordered to pay restitution that included double stumpage value of the unauthorized cut trees and the cost of the timber trespass investigation, totaling approximately \$33,500. Alex Peters was also sentenced to four months incarceration and one year of supervised release upon completion of his term of imprisonment.

The remaining crew members, Mitchell Maskewit, Carl Maskewit, and John Maskewit, were each sentenced to terms of probation ranging from one to three years. Assistant US Attorney Dan Sanders also prosecuted these cases, Sanders noted, "The US Attorney's office is committed to working closely with the Menominee Tribe and Menominee Tribal Enterprise to protect the community's resources."